CLAIMS

1. A method of copying which avoids the bit-by-bit duplication of digital data arising from a source of digital data (1) on a medium (4), characterized in that said method comprises a step of formatting the digital data arising from said source of digital data as a function of a serial number (NS) contained in said medium (4) and a step of writing said formatted data (FD) onto said medium.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the serial number (NS) is recorded in an unfalsifiable manner on the medium (4) during its manufacture.

3. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the serial number (NS) is a unique number for each medium or exhibits a low probability of being common to two media.

4. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the step of formatting of the digital data to be duplicated is carried out using a secret-key encryption algorithm such as DES or a public-key algorithm such as RSA.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the encryption key is dependent on the serial number (NS).

6. Method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the encryption key is furthermore dependent on a secret parameter (PS) contained in any reading device (2) adapted for reading the digital data arising from said source.

7. A method of copying which avoids the bit-by-bit duplication of digital data read by a reading device (2) and copied onto a medium (4), characterized in that the medium comprises a serial number (NS) and in that the method of copying comprises the following steps:

- sending of the serial number (NS) recorded on the medium (4) to the reading device (2),

- formatting of the digital data read with the aid of the serial number, and
- recording on said medium (4) of the formatted digital data.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the formatting step is carried out in the reading device (2).

9. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 or 8, characterized in that the reading device (2) comprises means making it possible to read the medium containing the formatted digital data.

10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that before performing the duplication of the digital data, it comprises a step of checking authorization to copy.

11. A reading device (2) allowing the implementation of a method of copying according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it comprises a formatting circuit (3) adapted for receiving the serial number (NS) of the medium onto which the digital data are to be copied and providing as output, formatted data (FD) which are dependent on said serial number (NS) and are intended to be copied onto said medium.

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